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Whitehall, Auguſt 17.

Yeſterday in the Evening Colonel Crofts *arrived here, being ſent Expreſs by Lieutenant-General* Stanhope, *with the following Relation of the Victory obtained by her Majeſty's Forces, and thoſe of her Allies, on the 27th of the laſt Month,* N. S. *near* Almanara *in* Catalonia.

ON the 25th of July his Catholick Majeſty having received Advice that the Baron de Wetzel, a Lieutenant-General in the Service of his Imperial Majeſty, was advanced as far as Camaraſi, three Leagues diſtant from Balaguer, with Reinforcements drawn from the Lampourdan, and the Troops lately tranſported from Italy, ſent him Orders to purſue his March the next Morning, and to join the Army. On the 26th ſome of our Parties that were on the Patrouille ſent us Intelligence, as ſoon as it was Light, that they obſerved a great Fire in the Enemy's Camp, and at Sun-riſing we were informed that they were marching in three Columns towards Lerida; whereupon ſeveral Parties of Huſſars and other Detachments were ſent out to obſerve the Enemy, and diſturb their March. The ſame Morning our Army decampt by the Dawn of the Day, paſſed the River Scio, and took Poſt in the new Camp that was marked out before Balaguer, near the Bridge of that City. General Wetzel joined the Army before Noon, and all the Detachments returned to the Camp. After which his Catholick Majeſty being adviſed by his Parties, by Priſoners, Deſerters and Spies, that the Enemy had pitched their Tents in the Neighbouring Gardens of Lerida, immediately held a Council of War; and after all the Generals of the Allies had given their Opinions, he ordered the whole to ſtrike their Tents at Sun-ſet, and be in a readineſs to March; accordingly the Army decamped that Evening, paſſed over the Bridge of Balaguer, and took the Rout towards Alfaras, which is ſituated on the other ſide of the Noguera, five Leagues diſtant from Balaguer. For the Execution of the projected Deſign, Lieutenant-General Stanhope was commanded to advance with the utmoſt Expedition, having Orders to lay a Bridge over the Noguera, to ſecure the Paſſes near Alfaras, and prevent the March of the Enemy. For this Service he had under his Command Major-General Pepper, with four Regiments of Dragoons belonging to the Left Wing, two of which were Engliſh, and two Dutch, viz. one Regiment of Guards, and thoſe of Pepper, Mattha and Schlippenbach; and alſo Count d'Eck, Major-General of the Infantry, in the Service of the Emperor, with twenty Companies of Grenadiers, ſix Pieces of Cannon, and the neceſſary Pontoons. This Diſpoſition being made for our March, thoſe Forces were immediately followed by the whole Army. The Foot marched in Front, filing off from the Left, 'till both Lines had paſſed the River, who were followed by the Infantry on the Right; the remainder of the Horſe of the Left moving after the Foot of the ſame Wing. The Artillery marched after the Horſe of the Left. The Cavalry of the Right Wing brought up the Rear. The whole Army was obliged to paſs the River over the Stone Bridge of Balaguer, the Segra not being fordable, and the Pontoons being ſent before; but theſe Difficulties were ſurmounted by the Diligence of the Officers, and the Ardour of the Troops; for before eight in the Morning of the 27th, the whole Army had paſſed that ſingle Bridge. As we were to take the Rout through the Sarfana, we were obliged to march over another ſingle Bridge, which was executed in the ſame Order, and with equal Expedition. On the other ſide of that Bridge we halted two Hours on the Banks of the River, as well to refreſh the Troops, as to give the Horſe time to come up, that they might March in the Front. The Cavalry having paſſed the Sarfana, advanced in two Columns towards Alfaras, being followed in two other Columns by the Infantry. Near Algeri, within a Leagues of Alfaras, we received Advice from General Stanhope, that he had not only paſſed the Noguera with the Detachment under his Command, and poſſeſſed himſelf of the moſt advantageous ſituation near Alfaras; but that he had alſo laid a Bridge over the River. At the ſame time he adviſed, that the Waters were ſo low that the Cavalry and Artillery might paſs through the River it ſelf; adding, that if it ſhould be thought neceſſary, it was fordable even by the Infantry. General Stanhope alſo acquainted us, that he had then no Intelligence of the Enemy; but within half an Hour he diſpatched an Officer to inform us, that his advanced Guards had diſcovered nineteen of the Enemy's Squadrons, and ſome Infantry, marching towards Almanara, and a cloud of Duſt riſing behind them, upon which he had poſſeſſed himſelf of the riſing Ground on that ſide; and at the ſame time the Front of our Cavalry had paſſed the Noguera. While our Army was advancing, the Enemy began to form themſelves near Almanara, being two Brigades of Foot, beſides the nineteen Squadrons. According to the Account given by the Priſoners, thoſe Troops were detached the Night before, to take Poſſeſſion of thoſe Paſſes, and to prevent our March; but that deſign being fruſtrated by the diligence of General Stanhope, they reſolved to maintain themſelves in the Poſts they had taken near Almanara, until their whole Army came up, which was marching in two Columns to ſuſtain them: They advanced with the greateſt diligence; but our Forces having entirely paſſed the Noguera before ſix in the Evening, had the Advantage to prevent the Enemy; for although they had formed the whole Body of their Horſe in two Lines, and were ſupported by eight or ten Battalions, yet the reſt of their Infantry was ſtill on the March in two Lines. Notwithſtanding our ſituation was ſuch that we could not extend our Forces, but were obliged to form the two Wings of our Cavalry one behind another, and to divide each into two Lines, ſo that the whole conſiſted of four, and the Left Wing made the advanced Guard, as being firſt come up, and that we could only draw up our Infantry in four Lines behind each other; yet his Catholick Majeſty took a Reſolution to attack the Enemy immediately for theſe Reaſons; firſt, becauſe it being then ſeven in the Evening, he ſuppoſed they would take the Advantage of the Night to remove to a ſtronger Camp, or retire; and ſecondly, he obſerved that the Enemy were diſcouraged becauſe of their ill ſituation; for which end, that he might take the Advantage of theſe happy Conjunctures, he commanded a Battery of fourteen Pieces of Cannon to be erected on an Eminence, which commanded that where the Enemy were poſted. The Majors-General Franquenberg and Pepper began the Attack with ſuch Reſolution and Bravery, that the whole Cavalry of the Enemy was routed even before the Aſſailants could be joined by our Right Wing: Though they puſhed on with the higheſt warmth, and expreſſed an ardent Deſire to join in the Battel, only a few Regiments of it commanded by the Count d'Atalaya were ſo fortunate as to ſhare in the Glory of this Action. The firſt Line of the Enemy made very little Reſiſtance, excepting ſome particular Regiments which behaved themſelves with great Bravery. Our Infantry came on with great Intrepidity; but though they purſued the Enemy two Hours in the Night, 'till it was ſo dark that our Troops could not diſtinguiſh the Faces of each other, it was impoſſible to come up with them.

Although